GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4730
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2005
INTER- STATE TRADE COUNCIL
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Inter-State Trade Council has been set up to boost exports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any export targets have been fixed to achieve in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and other measures taken to boost exports of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) & (b) : No, Sir, however, it has been proposed to set up Inter State Trade Council and the Council is likely to be set up soon. The need for such Council was felt for long as it was felt that coherence and consistency among trade and other economic policies of both the Union and State Governments was important for maximizing the contribution of such policies to development. State Governments are increasingly required to partner with the Union Government in this process.

Inter State Trade Council propose to engage State Government in providing an enabling environment for boosting international trade by setting up an Inter State Trade Council.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of (c) does not arise. General measures for promoting exports from the country have been enumerated in the Foreign Trade Policy. Important of them are:

i. Unshackling of controls and creating an atmosphere of trust and transparency to unleash the innate entrepreneurship of our businessmen, industrialists and traders.
ii. Simplifying procedures and bringing down transaction costs.
iii. Neutralizing incidence of all levies and duties on inputs used in export products, based on the fundamental principle that duties and levies should not be exported.
iv. Facilitating development of India as a global hub for manufacturing, trading and services.
v. Identifying and nurturing special focus areas which would generate additional employment opportunities, particularly in semi-urban and rural areas, and developing a series of `Initiatives` for each of these.
vi. Facilitating technological and infrastructural upgradation of all the sectors of the Indian economy, especially through import of capital goods and equipment, thereby increasing value addition and productivity, while attaining internationally accepted standards of quality.
vii. Avoiding inverted duty structures and ensuring that our domestic sectors are not disadvantaged in the Free Trade Agreements/Regional Trade Agreements/Preferential Trade Agreements that we enter into in order to enhance our exports.
viii. Upgrading our infrastructural network, both physical and virtual, related to the entire Foreign Trade chain, to international standards.
ix. Revitalising the Board of Trade by redefining its role, giving it due recognition and inducting experts on Trade Policy.
x. Activating our Embassies as key players in our export strategy and linking our Commercial Wings abroad through an electronic platform for real time trade intelligence and enquiry dissemination.